

15. (New) The polypeptide claimed in claim 1 wherein said polypeptide exhibits at least 70% similarity with the polypeptide sequence SEQ ID NO:1, corresponding to human prepro-urotensin II.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are active in the present application. Claims 3, 5-7 and 9-13 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 1 and 14 have been rewritten to conform to U.S. Patent Practice. Claim 15 is a new claim. Support for amended claim 14 is found in the specification on page 10, lines 21-25. No new matter is added.

Applicants have now submitted a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing. The sequence information recorded in the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing is identical to the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing. Support for all of the sequences listed in the substitute Sequence Listing is found in the present application as originally filed. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the submission of the substitute Sequence Listing and the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits.

Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

-- 1. (Amended) A polypeptide isolated from mammals, characterized in that it comprises, at its C-terminal end, a heptapeptide having the following sequence: Cys-Phe,Trp-Lys-Tyr-Cys-Xaa, in which Xaa represents Val or Ile, in that it belongs to the urotensin II family and in that it exhibits at least 45%[, and preferably at least 70%,] similarity with the polypeptide sequence SEQ ID NO:1, corresponding to human prepro-urotensin II.

3. (Amended) A purified nucleic acid fragment, characterized in that it is selected from the group consisting of:

a) the fragments comprising at least one sequence encoding a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2],

b) the fragments consisting of a sequence encoding a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2],

c) the oligonucleotides derived from the sequences as defined in b), constituting probes or primers, and

d) the sequences complementary to the above sequences, which may be sense or antisense sequences, with the exception of the EST having the Gen Bank accession number AA535545.

5. (Amended) A recombinant vector, characterized in that it contains a nucleic acid fragment as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4].

6. (Amended) A cell transformed with at least one nucleic acid fragment as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4].

7. (Amended) A reagent for detecting a nucleic acid fragment as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4], characterized in that it comprises between 20 and 50 nucleotides of the sequence SEQ ID NO:4, of the sequence SEQ ID NO:18 or of the sequence SEQ ID NO:27.

9. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that it comprises at least one polypeptide isolated from mammals, characterized in that it comprises, at its C-terminal end, a heptapeptide having the following sequence: Cys-Phe, Trp-Lys-Tyr-Cys-Xaa, in which Xaa represents Val or Ile, in that it belongs to the urotensin II family and in that it exhibits at least 45%, and preferably at least 70%, similarity with the polypeptide sequence SEQ ID NO:1, corresponding to human prepro-urotensin II [as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2], or one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in [either of claims 3 and 4] claim 3 encoding all or part of said polypeptides, combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

11. (Amended) A process for detecting the presence or absence of an mRNA encoding a mammalian urotensin II, in particular in individuals with a neurodegenerative pathology or a trauma to the spinal cord, by bringing a biological sample into contact with at least one reagent as claimed in claim 7 [or claim 8].

12. (Amended) A process for detecting a mutation in the sequence of the gene or of the mRNA encoding urotensin, characterized in that it comprises extracting said DNA or said mRNA from a biological sample and comparing it with the nucleic acid sequences as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4].

13. (Amended) A diagnostic kit intended for detecting an mRNA encoding a mammalian urotensin II, in a biological sample, said mRNA possibly being mutated, characterized in that it comprises at least one sequence as claimed in [either of claims 3 and 4] claim 3.

14. (Amended) [The use of the polypeptides as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2], for selecting anti-hypertensives.] A method for selecting anti-hypertensives comprising determining the activity of an anti-hypertensive against urotensin II as an antagonist. --

Claim 15 (New).